

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7036

By Fraley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate James Wilhelm upon being named Mr. Democrat of 2005 by the Highland Rim Democratic Club.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for this General Assembly to commend those individuals whose energy and enthusiasm bring vigor and excitement to the political process of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, James Wilhelm is one such dedicated local political activist, who, throughout his life, has embraced the political process through his recognition of the necessity of citizen involvement and his own personal participation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilhelm is an important part of his community and a lifelong Democrat, serving the Democratic Party and the people of Coffee County in numerous capacities as an active and respected citizen of Manchester; and

WHEREAS, a native of Coffee County, James Wilhelm is a graduate from Middle Tennessee State University; he first became interested in exercising his right to vote in 1967, shortly after enlisting in the United States Navy; for four years he served his country with courage and distinction, including a tour of duty in Viet Nam aboard the USS Benewah, Flagship for the Mobile Riverine Force; and

WHEREAS, after completing his military service, he earned the respect of his colleagues by exhibiting professional acumen and alacrity in various positions, including line supervisor at Batesville Casket Company, vice president of operations at Home Federal Savings and Loan in Manchester, and independent insurance sales representative for several insurance companies, and

WHEREAS, James Wilhelm served with distinction for sixteen years as Coffee County Executive, contributing significantly to the growth of Coffee County by helping to facilitate the county's first solid waste collection system, organizing the Coffee County Water and Wastewater Authority, creating personnel policies and a salary schedule for county employees, and establishing the Coffee County Growth Plan to ensure infrastructure improvements were available for anticipated growth in the county; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide better and more efficient services for all Coffee County citizens, County Executive Wilhelm worked to improve relations between city governments in the county; he is credited with establishing a cafeteria plan and optional benefits program for county employees and improving accountability of county expenses, and he also negotiated the sale of the Coffee County Medical Center to United Regional Health Care and helped to establish a joint county industrial park; and

WHEREAS, James Wilhelm has served his fellow citizens faithfully as a public official in numerous other capacities; he has received many certificates of recognition and held offices on a number of boards, including the South Central Tennessee Development District, on which he served two terms as chairman, vice chairman, and governing board secretary; he has also served as president of the Tennessee Development District Association, and he received the Tennessee Local Government Environmental Stewardship Award in 1998; and

WHEREAS, a politically passionate citizen, Mr. Wilhelm is an active member of the Democratic Party; he participated in the campaigns to elect President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, Representative Jim Cooper, Senator Jim Sasser, Governor Ned McWherter, Governor Phil Bredesen, and other locally elected officials; and

WHEREAS, James Wilhelm is most thankful for the love and companionship of his wife, Betty Bryan, and their daughter, Jamie; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilhelm is a person of impeccable morals and irreproachable integrity, who has worked assiduously to establish a brighter future for the good people of Coffee County; he exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilhelm's sterling record of unstinting dedication to and support of the Deomcratic Party and his community is worthy of commendation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate James Wilhelm upon being named Mr. Democrat of 2005 by the Highland Rim Democratic Club, thank him for his ongoing commitment to a vital political life for his party, his community, and for all Tennesseans, and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.